

# Politics of the Philippines

## Colonial Cost and Colonial Trade.

The report that Adjutant General Corbin has arranged with General Chaffee for a reduction of the army in the Philippines and that it is estimated that expenses for this branch of the service may be decreased 60 per cent suggests a review of the cost of our war with Spain, which indicates that we had better stick to our humanitarian import and ignore it as a cash transaction.

Before the war began the maintenance of our army came to about \$50,000,000 annually, that of the navy to about \$35,000,000. The total for a period of four years, reckoning from the fiscal year ending with June, 1898, to the fiscal year just closed, would be \$290,000,000 in the one case and \$140,000,000 in the other. But the actual cost of the army during that period has been \$600,110,636 and of the navy \$240,136,984. The excess on the first account is \$400,110,636, on the second \$100,136,984.

Adding the \$20,000,000 given to Spain, the cash investment comes to more than \$300,000,000, and it has been taken from the whole American people by taxation.

Of course the islands we have captured and purchased are worth a great deal more money than that, but what we have acquired is sovereignty. We have taken the islands and we have made them as old, and their property rights remain as of old. If we wish to make a point of material gains we shall have to turn to the question of trade and commerce, and even then no man can tell what the commercial gain might have been without assuming that there is no absolute ratio affecting politics and commerce. We exported as much or nearly as much to Cuba in the year ending with June, 1898, as we did during the last fiscal year, when the island was under our control.

Looking, however, to the places that have been reduced to permanent possessions we discover that there has been an increase of American exports to them which may properly be attributed to a politically stimulated market for American commodities. The figures for the special tariff which they have on the meaning of the figures. Part of the gain in the Philippines is chargeable as an expense to the American people as a whole, since they paid for supplies sent to the islands for the maintenance of their army, and, more important still, the gain in Porto Rico was distinctly a gain from tariff concessions. Trade follows low tariffs.

But continued large expenditures on military account would far more than offset all possible gains, even if tariffs were abolished and it were permissible to hence a goodly amount of trade credit. For the ratio of military cost to exports is now about as 9 to 1, and the latter cannot have any very great expansion because the importing people are not a people of highly cultivated wants.—Record-Herald, Republican.

## That Tariff Wall.

When Republicans enter for the purpose of "pointing with pride" there must be pronouncement favoring the continuance of the scheme of protection of our manufacturers. In the gathering of Ohio Republicans this feature was not lacking. And now the organs rise to a demonstration of great benefits flowing from the Republican policy of protecting the home market. The convention declared in favor of "tariff schedules which will protect American labor against the low wages paid foreign labor." And the faithful organ points to the steady increase of our exports of manufactured goods as evidence of the value of the tariff wall. It is to protect the laborers of this country against the low wages paid abroad.

Now if this is so simple a thing why will not some of these organs explain in what manner a tariff against imports of iron and steel can benefit the American laborer while we are constantly adding to the amount of our exports of these commodities? It is not to be assumed that foreigners buy our manufactured products because they are higher in cost than those made by the foreign laborer at lower wages are paid. That is too palpable an absurdity even for a Republican organ. If we can ship our products to England and sell them, freight paid, in competition with goods manufactured by English labor working for a less wage, what kind of a tariff can be made impossible for the English manufacturer to ship his products to this country, pay the freight and attendant expense and sell them in competition with our goods which are driving the Englishman out of his own market?

And when a tariff is raised to make it impossible for the English manufacturer to ship his products to this country, pay the freight and attendant expense and sell them in competition with our goods which are driving the Englishman out of his own market? It is a matter of recent history that Americans entered Pekin against the desire of the inhabitants. It was an American who first sealed the wall. He entered and carried in his hand the American flag. Commenting on this incident in the spirit of a Republican convention, it would be claimed that the Chinese wall had been sealed and an American had entered the city, and that, therefore, the wall was not an obstacle, but rather because of the wall the valiant young American rose to fame, he might as well have made the wall. If there had been no wall it could not have been sealed. Therefore, it was clearly the Chinese wall that created the valor of the American sailor. It is a strange sort of logic. It would not be accepted in the crazy ward of a well-regulated insane asylum. But it is all right in a Republican convention, and it just suited the purpose of a high-tariff organ.—Johnstown Democrat.

## Sham War on Trusts.

The Republican game of amusing the people by putting up a sham legal fight against the monopoly combines has been resumed.

This game was begun by the Harrison administration. The Sherman law was passed in 1890, before the McKinley

law was enacted. No attempt was made to enforce it for a year or more. Then Mr. Harrison's Attorney General took up with a start and hastily wrote a letter to United States District Attorneys directing them to take that anti-trust law and "lay it alongside" of any combine that came handy and see whether it would fit.

The result was great activity against trusts, but it was mostly confined to the news and editorial columns of the Republican newspapers. Some alleged combines which were not tariff protected were attacked, and one insignificant little trust which was tariff protected was hit pretty hard.

After election the activity subsided. The only important application of the Sherman law was to a railroad combine which was not tariff protected by any degree or manner, and that application was in no wise due to Republican effort.

Now that the discovery has been made that Representative Babcock speaks for great numbers of Republicans in the West, that he cannot be turned down and that trouble for the party is brewing, it is perceived that something must be done or the Republican party will be in a desperately bad way long before the next Presidential election. If the party will be in a desperate way long before the next Presidential election, it is perceived that something must be done or the Republican party will be in a desperately bad way long before the next Presidential election.

In this dilemma the administration, we are told by its organs, has resolved that a searching investigation should be made of the trusts. It is to be a great corporate combination are operating in contravention of the Sherman anti-trust law. In fact, it is asserted that the department of justice, presided over by a great corporation lawyer, is already secretly carrying on this investigation.

When the department finds something wrong "the trust question then will resolve itself into a paramount legal issue and be fought to a finish. Against the Federal government will be arrayed vast aggregations of capital." etc. Just so. This is the real issue. It is to be a great corporate combination are operating in contravention of the Sherman anti-trust law. In fact, it is asserted that the department of justice, presided over by a great corporation lawyer, is already secretly carrying on this investigation.

Why should we have a prohibitive duty on salt equal to 80 per cent in bulk and 38 per cent in bags or other packages? The freight alone prohibits its importation unless the salt trust is charging much greater profit than foreigners would be willing to sell for.

The American Protective Tariff League is threatening to smoke out Speaker Henderson on the tariff question. The League will for once be doing good work if it will show up how the trusts, through the Republican Speaker and majority of Congress, make or balk legislation to suit themselves.

There would seem to be another factional fight in progress among the Republicans about the future of Cuba and the tariff on her productions. One side represented by the New York Press would repel and impoverish Cuba; the other side, which the Chicago Inter Ocean is the spokesman, would pave the way for "manifest destiny," which, in this case, means activities when Admiral Cervera attempted to bolt with his ships. What General Shafter may have to say on this subject will be interesting. If Shafter took Sampson away, and had the right to insist on a personal meeting, as being higher in command, he will regret it for the rest of his life, and so will the public. There is burning public curiosity to know just what Sampson would have done had he been within gunshot when the Spanish vessels rushed out of the harbor. Admiral Sampson, by the way, claims that he picked a time for his necessary absence at which it would be most unlikely that the Spaniards would try to escape. He presumed the night time would be chosen. Cervera, however, may have noted Sampson's absence. How he must regret that Schley was not sent to confer with Shafter.

President McKinley and his associates in the government will be especially interested as to how much damage has been inflicted on the crops by the extraordinary heated term. The wheat is safe, but how much injury to corn there has been is yet to be determined. An analysis of our foreign trade has shown that our prosperous condition depended on the sale abroad of cotton, corn and other farm products. In the fiscal year 1900, 1901 nothing was gained over the previous year in our sales to foreigners of manufactured goods. The gain of \$20,000,000 in our exports was in agricultural products. Prosperity seems to be the result of the bounteous products of the soil and conditions abroad that made a market for them, rather than the inspired work of the beneficent McKinley. It would be a sad thing indeed if at the present stage of affairs the President should be obliged to abandon the title of "advance agent," etc. The failure of the crops would expose a pretense which seems to have been accepted as gospel by a large portion of the community. It would show that William McKinley is really only human, like the rest of us, and can do nothing without rain.

## THE BATTLE-FIELDS.

### OLD SOLDIERS TALK OVER ARMY EXPERIENCES.

The Blue and the Gray Review Incidents of the Late War, and in a Graphic and Interesting Manner Tell of Camp, March and Battle.

THE civil war was one of the thirty-five years, and the press-monthly, weekly and daily—has been telling the story ever since. One would suppose that the last dramatic recital of that time of awakening and that had been told; that anything further would be the repetition of an old story. Yet now and again, in some corner of the country, one comes upon the record of a striking incident of those times that has escaped notice, and is as fresh as the day after it had happened.

Such a story has waited all these years in San Francisco. Its hero is Major L. F. Smith, a beaten and scarred veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars, who saved the life of President Lincoln at the risk of his own when the martyr President was in danger from the proximity of a chance shot.

Major Smith gained his title in the Mexican War. He enlisted from Maryland, and, owing to former army experience, was appointed a captain in the First Maryland Regiment. He fought on the border during the first year of the war, and marched with the army of invasion that swept on to the capital city of the Southern republic. At Buena Vista his regiment lost most of the officers in the fighting, and the vacancies, together with his conspicuous bravery on the field, advanced Smith to the grade of Major. In that rank he served for a time on the staff of Gen. Scott, but joined his command in time to take part in the capture of Tehuantepec.

The war over, he came up the coast to San Francisco. Those were the days when Pico was Governor, before the discovery of gold. When the find that startled the world was made, Smith went to the mines and cleared up a modest pile, which he took back with him to Iowa in 1850. The following year he came back to this State again, driving a bull team across the plains, and for the next ten years he mined or followed his trade of engineer all over the State.

Then came the dark days of 1862, when the hopes of the Union looked slender, and when the Government was straining every nerve to raise forces. Captain Reid began the recruiting of the famous old California Hundred, the Rough Riders of the time, and Smith was one of the first to sign the muster roll. They were sent to Panama to Massachusetts, where they were enrolled in the Second Massachusetts Cavalry for the war. Their record and that of every man in the ranks from that time forth in a long string of battles, from the actions against Mosby to the Battle of the Wilderness.

In April of 1865, when the war was a short time, when he got back to the ranks, only to be hit in the right leg, losing part of the bone. When he got into action again the regiment had been ordered into the fighting along the Atlantic coast that ended only with the war. In the summer of 1864, together with two or three other members of his troop, who had had experience with artillery, he was detached and ordered into the defense of Fort Washington, outside the city, then in danger from Early's raid. This was the demonstration toward Washington which came the nearest to success, and it was during that time that Lincoln, following his custom, came down for a day with the troops. Early's advance was near—how near those in the batteries did not realize until fire was opened on them from the heavy guns of one of the Confederate General's advance batteries.

The rest of the story can be best told in Major Smith's own words. He is an old man now, rounding the eighty mark, but his back straightens and his eye flashes when he tells it: "Lincoln had been passing along the lines, looking and joking with the men. Just for fun, he turned in and helped some of us load by passing up the barrels to us. We thought that the enemy were getting rather close and expected trouble before long, but we were more than a little surprised when they began to open at us from long range. The first shot was a long one, standing close in by our gun when the line began, and some of the officers wanted him to get out, but he wouldn't. 'Then the order was given to fire, and we opened on them. We had fired a shot or two, when, plump! a couple of shells fell into the trestle close by the gun. The first thing to do when shell is close to you is to fall on your face, because the safest place is close to the ground. 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